

City of Northampton, MA
Urban Forestry Commission (UFC)

Date: January 05, 2022

Meeting Minutes

Submitted By: Debora Laizer

Meeting Called to Order

Richard Parasiliti Jr., Ex-officio Chair called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. and announced that this virtual meeting would be recorded to the Cloud via the Zoom platform.

Members present and absent/introductions:

Member	Present	Time if arriving late or leaving early
Richard Parasiliti Jr., Ex-officio Chair	X	
Susan Lofthouse, Vice Chair	X	
Marilyn Castriotta	X	4:39 p.m.
Molly Hale	X	
Jennifer Werner	X	
Rob Postel	X	
David Lukens	X	
Staff & Visitors	Present	Time if arriving late or leaving early
Debora Laizer, DPW Clerk	X	

Public Comment

- No public comments.

Review/approve minutes from December 15, 2021 meeting

- Members reviewed the minutes silently. A motion to amend was proposed, seconded and a roll call vote was taken.

Motion	Motion By:	Seconded By:	Vote:
To approve the amended December 15, 2021 meeting minutes.	Molly Hale	Sue Lofthouse	Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0

Review/approve minutes from December 16, 2021 subgroup meeting

- These subgroup minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

Chair Report/Tree Warden Report

- The Massachusetts Tree Warden and Foresters Annual Conference has been moved to a virtual meeting. Rich will send the link to UFC members.
- Rich will email the UFC Committee Members the Arbor Day/Earth Day Seedling Order Form. In the past the city has ordered 100 each of 5 different species totaling 500 seedlings. The earlier that UFC members get back to Rich with their selections the faster the order can be placed and the better the odds are for receiving the requested items.
- There may potentially be one Public Shade Tree Hearing for the end of Harrison Avenue. If there is a hearing it would not be until after January 19, 2022.

Year End Planting Report

- Over 298 trees were planted by the DPW and volunteers this year. This total does not include trees planted due to construction projects through other city departments. From 2015 to now almost 2,000 trees have been planted. The variety of trees planted is uncharacteristic of most cities. Over 90% of previously planted trees have made it.
- A Ward column should be added to Rich's Master Tree List.
- Publicity should be planned for when 2,000 trees planted has been reached. This should take place with the new Mayor around Arbor Day/Earth Day.
- There are approximately 20 trees left to plant in the spring for the EJ grant project.
- Rob and Rich will reach out to the local nurseries for availability on spring bare root tree stock.
- Sometime this winter Rich will reach out to the residents on Warfield Place about tree planting.
- Structural soil, permeable pavers, and soil retrofitting will probably be included in most upcoming road construction projects.
- David would like to see more trees planted on school grounds. The maintenance people and principal for these schools should be included in further discussions. Volunteers could help with summer watering.

STO Subgroup Discussion

- Track changes on the STO draft were screen shared. This document will be emailed to the UFC members.
- A map showing the different zoning districts with the DBH requirements was also screen shared. In the most heavily urban zoned areas of the city the DBH would be 20". On the map the further you go out into the rural areas of the city the DBH gets reduced from 10" then to 6". This document will also be sent to the UFC members.
- Once the UFC Commission endorses the changes to the STO and the DBH zoning map the next step would be to have a meeting with the Mayor, DPW Director and the Planning and Sustainability Department. After that it would need to be introduced to the City Council, then to the Council Committee and then it would go through a hearing process to change the ordinance.
- Rich would like to gather data on trees lost since the zoning ordinance changed in 2015.

Spotted Lanternfly Update

- It is possible to identify Ailanthus trees in the winter. Molly found two trees by Nonotuck and Maple Street near the David Ruggles Center.

Any other business not anticipated by the Chair

- Tree pruning this winter is now being slowed by the surge of COVID.
- Rich had a conversation with Tool Design about plowing on Main Street. Rich will share any new design information when it becomes available.
- The To Do List can be removed from future minutes.

Adjourn

- A motion was proposed, seconded and a roll call vote was taken. There was no discussion.

Motion	Motion By:	Seconded By:	Vote:
To adjourn.	Molly Hale	Jennifer Werner	Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0

- Meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.